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LETTER DATED 26 AUGUST 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to submit to you the attached letter, dated 26 August 1993, by the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Dr. Haris Silajdzic, addressed to Your Excellency.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 26 August 1993 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina sent a letter to the Security Council and Secretary-General of the United Nations on 24 July 1993, in which it pointed out that all of the measures undertaken by this date in regards to the establishment of the "safe areas" in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and especially, in regards to the implementation of resolution 836 (1993), had been slow, inconsistent and indecisive.

Excellency, I regret to inform you that, presently, I can only reiterate the same observation.

A key predisposition for the establishment of the "safe areas" - withdrawal of forces and heavy artillery of the aggressor to a distance from which they would not constitute a menace to these areas and the population has not been honoured. Artillery and other heavy weaponry are still stationed aiming at the safe areas and the population who are under United Nations "protection". Since the designation of Sarajevo as a "safe area" on 8 May 1993, 536 people of Sarajevo alone, have been killed with 3,306 wounded.

I emphasize the fact that the NATO Alliance pointed out, on 9 August 1993, that the crucial question is the lifting of the siege of Sarajevo and placing the mountains around Sarajevo under UNPROFOR control.

However, Sarajevo is still under siege. Only a few parts of the city have minimal amounts of running water and electricity. The delivery of natural gas has, once again, been disrupted. Postal service and telecommunications with the rest of the world have not been restored. As of now, the aggressor's forces have not completely withdrawn from the mountains of Bjelasnica and Igman. The offensive launched to take these mountains occurred almost two months after resolution 836 (1993) was voted upon. Attacks by aggressor armed forces against Gorazde, Tuzla, Bihac and other areas declared "safe", according to resolution 836 (1993), have continued.

I specifically point out that the Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina requested the Security Council on 23 July 1993, to declare the city of Mostar a "protected area". The situation in Mostar has drastically deteriorated ever since. Tens of thousands of people, including women and children, have been exposed to deadly threats caused by artillery attacks as well as by the lack of food and medicines. Furthermore, more than 15,000 civilians and 1,500 soldiers have been detained in prison camps located in Mostar, Siroki Brijeg, Grude, Gabela, Domanovici, Prenj, Pljet, Stolac, Ljubuski and Capljina.

Excellency, because of the above explained situation and unprecedented suffering of the population, I reiterate our request to the Security Council to begin implementation of the resolution 836 (1993) without delay. Tens of thousands of lives depend on it.

Excellency, I avail myself of the opportunity to thank you for your vigorous involvement in alleviating the plight of the civilian population and in attempts to reach a just and durable settlement of the Bosnia and Herzegovina question.

(Signed) Dr. Haris SILAJDZIC
Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina